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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/578,604	05/04/2006	Takeo Sonobe	SHOB-0003 (037498-004)	3453
7590 12/07/2007 David B Ritchie Thelen Reid & Priest P O Box 640640 San Jose, CA 95164-0640			EXAMINER ORTIZRODRIGUEZ, CARLOS R	
			ART UNIT 2125	PAPER NUMBER
			MAIL DATE 12/07/2007	DELIVERY MODE PAPER

**Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.**

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

## Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/578,604

Applicant(s)

SONOBE, TAKEO

Examiner

Carlos Ortiz-Rodriguez

Art Unit

2125

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

### Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 25 October 2007.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

### Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1 and 12-21 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 1 and 12 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 13, 15-18 and 20 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 14, 19 and 21 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

### Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

### Attachment(s)

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)  | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)   | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application                       |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>9/05/06</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____  |

## **DETAILED ACTION**

### ***Claim Objections***

1. Claims 14, 19 and 21 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejection(s) under 35 U.S.C. 112, 2nd paragraph, set forth in this Office action and to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

### ***Allowable Subject Matter***

2. Claims 1 and 12 are allowed.

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112***

3. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

4. Claims 13 and 18 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being incomplete for omitting essential structural cooperative relationships of elements, such omission amounting to a gap between the necessary structural connections. See MPEP § 2172.01. With respect to claim 13, the omitted structural cooperative relationship is: the relationship of the weather detecting means and the transmitter with respect with to the claimed system. With respect to claim 18, the body of the claim provides for inputting weather data, temperature, atmospheric pressure and weather at predetermined time intervals, however there seems to be missing steps because no

further steps are claimed regarding this data. The relationship of this data with respect to the other claimed steps is not clear.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

5. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

6. Claims 13, 15-18 and 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Granville et al. U.S. Patent No. 5,006,846 in view of Shannon U.S. Patent No. 7,157,710.

Regarding claims 13, 15-18 and 20, Granville et al. discloses the electric power system comprising: a corona discharge detection means; a digital processing unit; a memory means for storing transmission line data and processed data by said digital processing unit; a power system analysis means (Abstract L1-4 and Figure 1); a weather detecting means (C5 L29-52 and Figure 1); and a transmitter (Abstract Lines 7-11 and Figure 1).

But Granville et al. fails to clearly specify lowering or stopping the transmission voltage.

However, Shannon disclose that wherein said digital processing unit stops a corona discharge in a short time by lowering a transmission voltage of a transmission

line that generates the corona discharge, or stops transmitting electric power in the transmission line when said corona discharge detection means detects a corona discharge, and wherein said power system analysis means adjusts loads of apparatuses in the electric power system (C4 L13-22).

Therefore at time the invention was made, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to modify the above invention disclosed by Granville et al. and combining it with the invention disclosed by Shannon.

One of ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to do this modification in order to prevent severe damage to the equipment as suggested by Shannon.

#### *Citation of Pertinent Prior Art*

7. Applicant is respectfully requested to fully consider all the references, in entirety, that appear on the attached list (Form PTO-892). These references disclose subject matter similar to that of applicant's disclosure and may be relied on in a future response to Applicant's remarks or amendments.

#### *Conclusion*

8. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Carlos Ortiz-Rodriguez whose telephone number is 571-272-3766.

Application/Control Number:  
10/578,604  
Art Unit: 2125

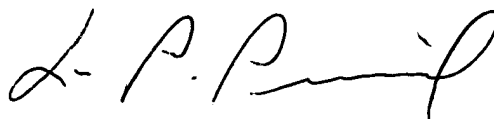
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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Leo Picard can be reached on 571-272-3749. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Carlos Ortiz-Rodriguez  
Patent Examiner  
Art Unit 2125

November 23, 2007



LEO PICARD  
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER  
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2100